

MEDIA RELEASE
09 June 2010

Mt Albert student one step closer to career in animal care

Forget the car, the boat and the holiday home offered by Big Wednesday. A Mt Albert student, who's just won a \$2,500 scholarship from industry association Agcarm, has more down-to-earth aspirations.

Feargus McConnell (21) will invest his winnings in some wet weather gear for calving, a small animals textbook and some much-needed car repairs.

"Being a student is a costly business," said Feargus. "I'm very grateful to Agcarm for this scholarship funding which I'll put towards some very good causes. I need some new books, the car's a bit dodgy and I certainly need some gear for calving this spring."

Feargus (21) will always call Mt Albert home but is currently residing in Palmerston North where he is halfway through his five-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Massey University.

"I originally wanted to be a palaeontologist, but then decided as a youngster that I was more suited to helping animals – I've always had pets growing up," he said.

Feargus is unsure what type of animal care he will specialise in, but he has a keen interest in mixed practice veterinary care.

"I'm not entirely sure what area to specialise in but I'd love to work with large and small animals and eventually move into research.

"Becoming a veterinarian means I get to work with my hands, science and both people and animals – what more could you want in a job?"

Feargus will invest his scholarship in a small animals textbook, wet weather gear for calving season and some long overdue car repairs.

When Feargus doesn't have his head in a textbook he can be seen competing in boxing tournaments.

"I used to play underwater hockey for the New Zealand under 18 team. Unfortunately it doesn't have much of a following in the Manawatu, so I've taken up Olympic style boxing."

Graeme Peters, chief executive of Agcarm, said the association is pleased to contribute toward the future of such a high calibre student.

“Feargus had an outstanding application. We were very impressed with the passion he showed for his area of study,” Mr Peters said.

Agcarm is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving.

Initiatives of the organisation include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry’s contribution.

Ends.../

For more information please contact:

Feargus McConnell
Tel: 022 607 9316

Graeme Peters
Tel: 04 499 4225
Mobile: 027 667 7400